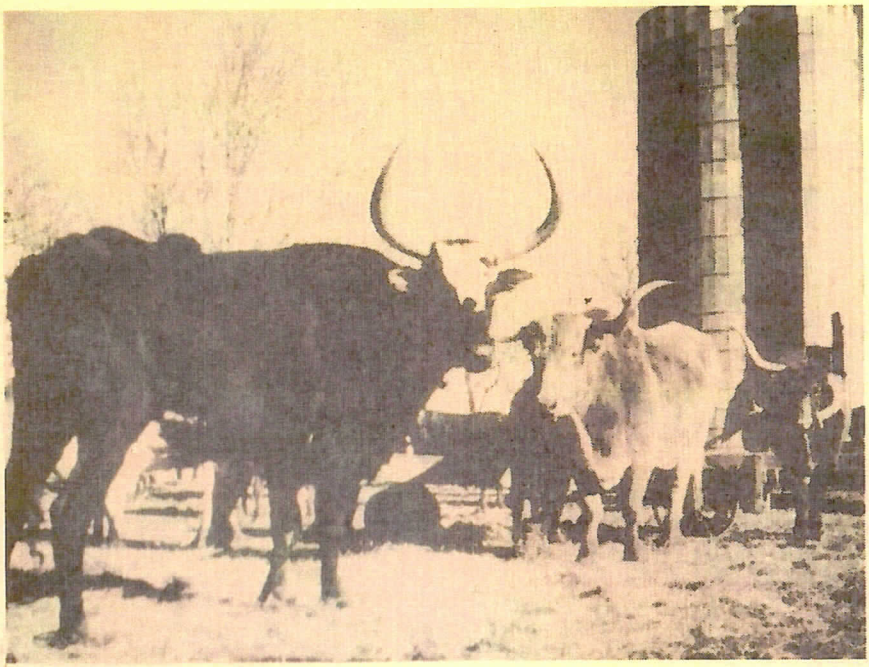
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 18 - No. 70

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 18-No. 70 **April, 1985**

Lester A. Harding, Editor

Editor's Notes —

The red box with the red cross in it will also be in this issue for those who have not paid their 1985 subscription. It seems like more people than in other years have not responded to the Red mark.

For those who do not respond by sending remittance of the year's subscription of $4.00, by June 1, may not receive the July issue.

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We have been asked several times if we're about to run out of anything to write about. In my collection and library we could find, with perhaps some research, enough to keep going for several years. Getting the little books to the printer is just a part of the work in getting it out.

We keep two sets of records of who gets each copy of "In The Beginning" and who has paid and who has not. In the four issues for the year we send or give out around 1800 or more in a year's time.

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IN MEMORIAN

Leland S. Morris 78 March 5, 1985

Mr. Morris was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society. He lived his entire life in Woodson County. He was a willing helper around the Museum and attended meetings until his health failed him.

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Our cover picture this issue is one we took quite a few years ago. These longhorns had belonged to the Gene Autry Rodeo and were brought to the Kimbell Bros. Ranch for the winter. The Kimbell Bros. in turn took them to the "Chub" Wharry Farm about a quarter mile west of the Cope Schoolhouse, about 5 miles from the ranch for the winter. These cattle had been mixed with a group of Brahmas and Mexican cattle. They had been a part of the Gene Autry Rodeo for quite a while or until their usefulness as rodeo stock had come to an end. We believe that at this time these cattle belonged to the Campbell Soup Co. We suppose that they were eventually made into Campbell Soup. The three steers shown all have different shaped horns, the one in the center had the most perfect horns. The farthest one has a crumpled horn.

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IN THE BEGINNING

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Yates Center, Kansas

$4.00 per year

$1.00 per copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

It was on March, 1965 that a group of citizens of Yates Center met at the Woodson Hotel for a buffet dinner and to try for an organization of a Historical Society for Woodson County.

There were at this meeting, Elmer F. Krueger was the Acting Chairman and Lester A. Harding was acting Secretary. The first officers of this Historical Society were:

President: Ray V. Stoll, Yates Center
Vice President: Maurice W. Riley, Piqua
Secretary: Lester A. Harding, Yates Center
Treasurer: Elmer F. Krueger, Yates Center

Board of Directors

Mrs. Clarissa Cantrell, Yates Center
Wm. J. Riley, Piqua
Walter A. Bowers, Yates Center
Mrs. Flossie Curtis, Toronto
Henry C. Kipp, Piqua
Mrs. Charles Daniel, Toronto

Executive Board

All of the above members.

Membership dues $2.00 per calendar year. Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

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There were 94 that wanted to be Charter Members. Some of these wanted the name of being a Chartered Member and never continued the membership, but the most of those who joined have kept a membership.

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There have been 102 members lost by death in these 20 years. The membership has held around the 250, more or less for several years.

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There have been around 200 dinner meetings held by members in that time. As near as we can figure Lester Harding is the only one not to miss a single meeting.

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IN THE BEGINNING

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Yates Center, Kansas

WEST BUFFALO - SCHOOL - CHURCH & HOMECOMING —

This community was in the south part of Woodson County that wound around the hills and valley of West Buffalo Creek. The West Buffalo School Dist. 28 was located about five miles to the northwest of the town of Buffalo, a mile north and a mile west from the Wilson County line. While this was the Osage Indian Trust Land, settlers began to come in here in the 1860's.

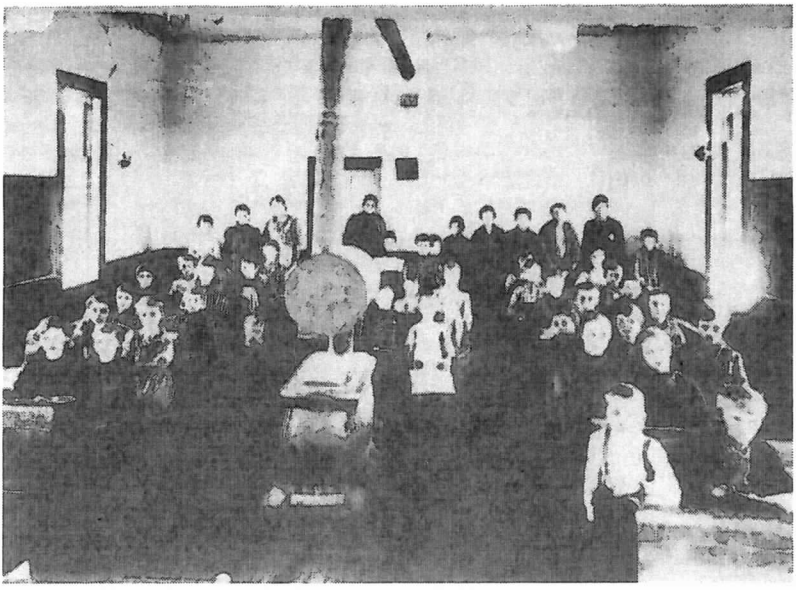
The early settlers came here to establish homes. Their occupation was farming and stock raising. A breaking plow turned the native sod. Corn was planted by hand and covered with a hoe. It was tended with a single shovel plow. Wheat was sown broad-by hand and covered with a harrow, hay was cut with a scythe. Mr. Curns who lived on the Buell place, west of the schoolhouse owned the last yoke of oxen in that neighborhood.

As the community became settled the need arose for a schoolhouse. The first school was held in a log building about a mile to the north of where the schoolhouse was later built. In 1870, a frame schoolhouse was built in the southwest corner of the S.W. Quarter of Sec. 27, Twp. 26, Range 15. However it seems as though the land was not deeded to the district by J.P. Flowers until Dec. 1887.

There were at one time when there were at least 22 homes in this district, and all had families living in them. Now there are only five homes with families. Three of these homes are Hershal Eagle, Lewis Eagle and Trembley Raifsnyder, all of whom are in the West Buffalo Church Homecoming picture and worked on this information.

The builder of this schoolhouse in 1870 was a young man name George Hill who at one time lived just across the Wilson County Line, perhaps with the help of some of the other patrons of the district. The first teacher in the new school was Kate Riggs. While the school was named West Buffalo School, it was also known as the "Surprise School" in honor of the Surprise family. At one time earlier than this it was called the "Brown School."

Teachers that taught at West Buffalo School were: Emma Paterson, Ada Smith, A.F. Ibbetson, Euphemia Frame, Clarrice Allen, W.C. Campbell, John Bothwell, Viola Cartwright, C.H. Bigelow, J.F. Long, W.S. Jones, Clara Trembley, Marian Woodside, Belle Withers, Charlotte Meyers, Grace Guthrie, Edith Ferris, Fred White, Florence Laude, Harry Brown, Neva Aronhalt, Clara Staton, Cecile Davidson, Ruth McCormick, Eva Puckett, Dessie Gillespie, Louise Raifsnyder, Ada Shotts, Mae Turner, Margaret Wilson, Mabel Summers, Elsie Gillespie, Goldie Williams, Eugene Etter, Nellie May Daniel, Emma Brownrigg, Hilda Thomas, Lorraine Charboneau, Dorothy Hadaway, Vivian Jackson, Lena Jane Arthur, Mrs. Luenne Meirs, Romana Cutler, Vivian Eagle. The last teacher Vivian Eagle taught the term of 1948-49.



Picture inside the West Buffalo Schoolhouse about 19--. Starting in the left hand row beginning in the rear: Amanda Way, Fleta Jefferson, Ina Hill, Lottie Easley, Stella Way, Kitty Flowers, Louise Surprise, Nellie Upson, Lillie and Julie Surprise, Florence and Alice Wilson, Gertie Easley, Amelia Stock, Lucy Ellis, teacher. Middle row: Ada Bartlett, Ethel Easley, Anna Way, Lucie and Edie Crumrine, Rena and Clara Pickering. Back row standing: Holly and Herbert Flower, Moses Surprise, Frank Bartlett, Dan Upson, James Bartlett. Right side seated: Lewis Clark, Elta and Fred Crumrine, Oscar Clark, Marian Pickering, Lloyd Jefferson, John and Willie Stock, Arthur Upson, Ray Easley, Floyd Nickols, Bessie and Effie Bartlett, George Hill and Sam Way.

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Teachers report to the District Court for one-teacher schools for the term of 1932-33. Goldie M. Williams teacher of the West Buffalo School Dist. 28, shows there were 15 pupils enrolled that term were as follows: Dorothy Beal, Vivian and Thelma Eagle, Howard Hegg, Edgar Beal, Lottie Stephenson, Verta Chapman, Wanda Bell Reno, John D. Beal, Muriel Clark, Fred Reno, Wilma Chapman, Claude and Pauline Beal, Dorothy Stephenson.

1915-1916
West Buffalo School and Church Homecoming

WEST BUFFALO CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL —

The following information about the Sunday School and Church were taken from the old Sunday School records kept by Standford Eagle, father of Hershal and Lewis Eagle. These services were held in the West Buffalo Schoolhouse.

"West Buffalo Sunday School and Church was organized by Mrs. Sarah Trembley. (Grandmother of Trembley Raifsnyder). It grew in numbers as the years went by. After the organization of the school there was occasionally preaching services by Rev. Pyke and C. H. Granley. Mrs. Anna Smith was Sunday School Superintendent. There was a good attendance. In 1896 Rev. L.W. Cottingham held a series of meetings resulting in twenty-five confessions. Through his efforts the Union Christian Mission was organized. L.G. Jones, C.W. Yard, Rev. Gilham, Rev. Blackburn and others not mentioned labored at this point. Rev. Gilbert Paik labored at this place for fifteen years.

The first Christian Endeavor Society was organized and Baptists, Methodists, Adventists and Christians united their efforts for the promotion of the Gospel. For a number of years the work continued under the leadership of this man of God. But because of ill health in his family he was forced to move to a distant part of the state. For the past few years this place was not favored with regular preaching service. Whence the work fell away to some degree. However, God never fails to take care of His own and just when the need was the greatest, Evangelist Presley Gordon of Rushville, MO began a series of meetings, Feb. 16, 1916 and continued till March 12, 1916. Under the leadership of this Servant of God the work was rebuilt and a permanent church was organized. Hence the West Buffalo Christian Church was organized March 12, 1916, with a total membership of 60.

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Elders were: H. A. Nichols, G. A. Gillespie, H. S. Raifsnyder, Wm. Stephenson and George Clark.

Deacons were: O. C. Buell, Cloyd Gillespie, Elta Crumrine, George Hill, Jr. and G. P. Ellison.

Clerk was Stanford Eagle, and Treasurer was George Clark. Added later to the official board were: Fred Crumrine, Oscar Clark, H. C. Cohoe, R. S. Orbin and Omar Toheroh.

On November 26, 1929, the following were added to the official board, John Sommers, Everett Burton, Herschel Eagle, Otto Clark.

The last church services held in the schoolhouse were in the late 1940's.

The place for the baptizing was in the West Buffalo Creek not far from the schoolhouse.

The West Buffalo Homecoming was rather a popular event for that community. This picture of the homecoming was taken sometime in 1915-1916. Rev. Presley Gordon who really put this church on its feet is somewhere in the picture.

Some of the people identified in the picture are: Mr. and Mrs. Alva Brush and Phylis; O.C. Buell, Theodore Buell; Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Chapman and Orlie; Mr. and Mrs. George Clark, Oscar and Otto; Mr. and Mrs. Charley Cohoe; Retta Jones Crumrine; Mr. and Mrs. Elta Crumrine and Mildred; Fred Crumrine, Nina Crumrine Pringle, Clinton Darst, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Eagle, Hershel, Lewis, Kyle, Avis Eagle Ireland, Erma Eagle Stockebrand; Mr. and Mrs. George Ellison, Hazel and Iva.

Barney Englebrecht and Louise Englebrecht Pendlay, Bessie Folmar, Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Gillespie, Ora and Elsie. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Gillespie, Theodore, Ernest, Oril, Harold, Ella, Dessie, Clarence, Spencer Gillespie, Rev. Presley Gordon.

Walter Hatch and Charles, Mr. and Mrs. George Hill; Pres Lilly, Omer Lothice, Erma Lushman, George and Guy McKinsey, Mr. and Mrs. John Milliron and John, George, Lovie Milliron, Lacy Ida Milliron Puckett, Lillie Milliron Evick, Ollie Milliron Young, Lucinda Milliron Nichols, Mary Milliron, Mada Milliron Hay, Emma Milliron Newton, Clarence Milliron.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Nichols, Raymond Nichols, Nora Orbin Darsy, Ray Orbin, Ralph Parsons, Rosa Pendlay, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Peters, John, and Lillian Peters Hinkle.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pickering, Clara, Hazel and Flossie, Leonard Pool, Myrtle Pool Schaede, Mrs. Janet Pringle and Janet, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Raifsnyder, Louise, Arthur and Trembley.

Paul Ratcliff, Neva, Velma, Goldie, Luther Rice. Bertha Rollins, Walter Rollins, Mrs. Sophia Sommers, Ernest, John, Mabel and Freda; Clara Staten (Teacher), Bill Stephenson, Anna Strand, Clarence Williams.

ODDS AND ENDS

WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE - August 16, 1912 —

Monday, at Yates Center, while Pete Holzapfel expressman and brakeman on "Jerky", was coupling up the air on the express car and the engine slipped back just a little and caught his head between a bolt on the engine and the bumpers and tore off a patch of hide a coupe of inches long on each side of his head. The engine stopped and he was extracted from the grip of the machine. Had the engine moved back just one inch more Pete would be with the angels now.

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ROUND HOUSE NOW ASSURED —

The Pacific Railroad decided to build a round house at Durand and reports state that it will be completed about the first of the year. Work will be started as soon as a site is chosen. The road has two plats of ground in view, one on the east side of the creek the other on this side of the water tower, near the crossing. The officials of the road seem to favor the former location and claim it would be more convenient if located there. They are willing to consider the proposition, however of locating the round house on the Harder land and the citizens of Yates Center favor that spot.

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POULTRY HOUSE BURNS —

Early Monday morning the poultry house, located near the electric light plant, and owned by Morris Bros. and Carpenter was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin. The fire was discovered and an alarm turned in about 4 o'clock, but it had gained too much headway that the building could not be saved. A number of box cars on the track nearby caught fire and the switch engine succeeded in pulling most of them away and the fire extinquished. About eight coops of chickens were roasted alive in the flames. 28 cases of eggs, hides, butter ect. was destroyed.

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"The fire the first of the week caused us to change our place of business and we are now located in the old Bedford Livery Barn where we are prepared to handle your poultry, eggs, etc. and pay the highest market price as heretofore." Morris Bros. and Carpenter.

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During the rain last Tuesday evening T.C. Ryan, who lives northwest of town, lost nine head of cattle by lightning. Ed Kimbell lost thirteen head. The cattle were bunched up by a barbed wire fence and all killed by the same bolt.

DR. J. S. WILLIAMS AND FAMILY —

Jennings Elliot Williams was born November 22, 1897, on a farm at Windsor, MO. His parents were Frank and Jane Williams. He moved with his parents, a brother Perry and a sister Sarah, the summer after he graduated from Windsor High School in 1917, to a farm southeast of Colony.

He enlisted in the army and was discharged in December 1917. He then borrowed money from his grandmother Jennings and enrolled at Kansas State University to study Veterinary Medicine. He got a job sweeping the halls at K.S.U. to help put himself through school. He graduated in 1921, and moved to Neosho Falls to set up his practice.

On Sept. 10, 1921, J. E. Williams was married to Sadie Esther Danner of rural Aliceville. They were the parents of two children, Elliot DeVaul, better known as "De" born in 1923 and Catherine Jane born in 1928.

Elliot married Margaret (Peggy) Dennis. They were the parents of two children Elliot Dennis and Karen Rae. Elliot "De" passed away when he was 30 years old of a kidney ailment.

Catherine married Samuel Deane Chatterton of Colony, KS. They are the parents of two children, Michael, Earl and Trudy Jane.

This is the passport picture of "Doc" and Esther Williams as they were going to Europe to the Rotary International in 1957.

He was a past President of the Rotary International. This meeting in Europe was in Switzerland.

J.E. Williams was active in numerous things in Neosho Falls American Legion, Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star.

In 1924, Mr. Williams took the Civil Service Examination and was appointed to one of the rural mail routes out of Neosho Falls.

"Doc" and Esther Williams lived in Neosho Falls till the flood of 1951, then moved to Yates Center. There he became very active in civic affairs. At the time of his death in 1959, he was Lay Leader and Chairman of Official Board of the First Methodist Church. President of the Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Rotary International, a 32 Degree Mason, a member of the Giliad Masonic Lodge and other lodges.

"Doc" J.E. Williams passed away following his second heart attack, April 29, 1959. His first heart attach was in 1949.

Esther died on Feb. 7, 1982 at the age of 86, from complications from a broken hip.

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ODDS AND EDDS

We do not have the date of the Yates Center News that these two articles were in.

"Yates Center has a new interprise in her midst - a cigar factory established by J. and C.C. Bowen, under the name of Bowen Bros., who recently located here for the purpose of manufacturing and selling cigars. The boys are repocessing young fellows and ought to and no doubt will do a going business.

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James Ward shipped a car load of hogs from Vernon to Kansas City one day last week, and he had one old fellow among the lot that had to be tied to one end of the car. He was a "Sullivan" sort of a fellow and made it lively for the boys around the depot. (James Ward was the father of our ex-sheriff Don Ward. It has probably been 85 years since these two articles happened."

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WOODSON CO. ADVOCATE - Feb. 21, 1913 —

Work on the sewer was commenced Monday. The big ditcher attracted quite a crowd as it is something new in this section of the country. It will dig eight feet deep and goes through rock about as easily as through dirt.

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The Yates Center National Bank, the State Exchange Bank and the Commercial State Bank will be closed Saturday, February 22, that being a National and legal holiday.

AUGUSTUS PUCKETT & FAMILY —

Augustus and wife ---- Blevins, a sister of Elias Blevins, were in the wagon train that came from Kentucky. They settled along lower Little Sandy Creek. They were the parents of three children; John Calvin, Charlie and Amelia. There were at least 3 or 4, of these Pucketts that had the name of John Calvin. The John Calvin that we will tell about here was given the nickname of "Gandereye'.

John Calvin was born in Wyandotte County, Kansas in 1868 and died in 1913. He was married to Ida Milliron, who was born in 1873 and died in 1964. They were the parents of fifteen children that we will tell about some of them.

Charles Puckett never married.

Amelia married a man named Butts. They had some children. One or both of the parents died and John Calvin and wife Ida took these children into their home with their fifteen children.

The fifteen children of these people are as follows. Warren A., Clifford, Myrtle, Earl Calvin, Ernest, Nora, Eva Viola, Olin, Ida, Florence, John, Lester, Elsie, Charley, Vesta.

Augustus Puckett and wife had first settled in the Kaw River Valley in Wyandotte Co., Kansas, where some of their children were born. They came to the Little Sandy Creek Valley about 1870.

This picture is of 12 of the 15 children of John Calvin and Ida Milliron Puckett. From left to right are: John, Olin, Charlie behind Olin, Ida, Ernest, Florence, Nora, the Mother Ida. Back of her is Clifford, Elsie, Warren, Myrtle and Lester.

Children of John Calvin and Ida Milliron Puckett.

1-Warren A. Puckett married Nellie Barney. Nellie died at the birth of her son Harold. Warren was remarried to Anna Lance. Their children were Albert, Poreta, Pauline, Calvin and Harley.

2-Myrtle married Ernest Hayes. Their children were Gene, Kenneth and Leona.

3-Clifford married Grace Louk. Their children were Floyd, Twyla and Dennis. Twyla was married to Melvin Lauber. Their children were Rick and Daryl Lauber. Melvin passed away in 1964. Later Twila was married to Ted Roller.

4-Ernest married Leta Reynard. Their children were Wilma Lee and Kathleen.

5-Nora married Otto Clark. Their children were Marie and Alice Mae.

6-Eva Viola died on her wedding day.

7-Olin married Beatrice Louk. Their children were Lloyd, Phyllis, Victor, Trenna, Janice. Trenna married Alva (Pete) Watts. Their children were Allen, Teresa, Joy and Jody.

8-Ida married Earl Stevens. Their children were Lois Murphy, Earl Stevens, Thursa and Juanita.

9-Florence married Carl Stevens. They were divorced. Later she married Milton Swale. No children.

10-John married Twila Mitchell. Children were Steve, Chester, and Leland.

11-Lester married sister-in-law Beatrice after the death of her husband Olin. They divorced. Lester had married before to ---- Wiggans.

12-Elsie married George Barker. Children were Chester and Deloris.

13-Charles married Lillie Barker. Their children were Chuck, Martin and Mitch.

14-Vesta died as a baby.

15-Earl Calvin who was born 1896 and died in 1897.

THE WOODSON COUNTY WATERSHED —

Woodson County is one of the few in the State of Kansas that has watersheds flowing in all four directions out of the county. The "ridge" or range of hills that divide these different watersheds is in the northwest part of the county.

Some are large streams and many of the smaller ones have been name locally. We would like to tell something of these various streams, and how some of them were named. We have traced and found names of over 50 different ones.

All of the streams mentioned have their headwaters in Woodson County except Carlisle Creek, that begins in Green County and Spring Creek that comes in from Coffey County, as does a man made stream that we will mention.

We find that there are two Duck Creeks, two Rock Creeks, three Bloody Runs, two Spring Branches besides Spring Creek.

The Neosho River is of course the largest stream to touch the county, cutting across the northeast corner, and perhaps two-thirds of the water that falls in the county drains to the Neosho, while the rest goes to the Verdigris.

Starting with the Neosho River, according to the Osage Indians Neosho means "dirty water or water made muddy." The name Neosho has been spelled many ways by the Osages. The French gave it the name of LaGrande. Zebulon Pike, while on an exploration, followed the river aways and crossed it somewhere near the present Neosho Falls, in 1806. The expedition was composed of Lieut, Zebulon M. Pike, commanding Lieut, James B. Wilkinson, one surgeon, one sergeant, two corporals, 16 privates and one interpreter. Also several Osage and Pawnee Indians. The purpose was trade and make friends with the Osage Indians. On September 7, 1806, this group marched across the corner of Woodson County. Pike called this the White River.

Different historians have spelled the name "Nion-chou", Niocho, Nee-o-jho, Neozhoo, Ne-o-shu, Ni-u-sho, but out of all of them came Neosho.

The part of the river that crosses this county has many curves and bends and drops 9 feet in the two miles.

Going to the southwest corner of the county is the Verdigris River. At the present there is very little of the Verdigris left in the county as the Toronto Reservoir covers all of the area that was once good farm ground and quite a few homes were in that area. The Little Osage Indians called this river Wa-Ce-Ton Xo-E, which has been translated to mean "Gray-green-bark-

waters." It seemed to be the bark of the sycamore tree to which they referred. The French used only the first two words of the name, verty gris "green and gray, from which they made the name Verdigris. The Osage dictionary spelled it the same as above, and defined it as "green clay." Others said it meant "blue clay". The Osages used the "Blue-colored mud" from the banks of the Verdigris to paint their apparel and themselves. To them the blue clay was a sacred color and they also used the clay to color the faces of the dead.

Another form of the name as used by the Osages was Was-set-to-ho. The Verdigris River is Indian in origin, French by translation and English in pronunciation.

The explanation of these names given by the Osages Indians was taken from the book "Indian Place-names" of Kansas as by John Rydjord.

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TURKEY CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES —

Turkey Creek heads in the northwest part of Woodson Co., going almost strait south for about three miles where it joins a branch coming in from the south that heads near the Kimbell Ranch. The creek then turns east and running east and north for several miles to the Neosho River, over in Coffey Co. What is perhaps the longest stretch of water between fords on any creek in the county is on this creek. There is close to a mile of water without a break. The depth of the 'deep holes' along this creek would probably be around seven to eight feet deep. How it got its name we do not know. In the first surveyors notes of this county, in the 1850's, it was called Turkey Creek. Perhaps some of these surveyors named these major streams.

There have been two different churches named for this creek. The first was a United Brethern, started in 1859, just over into Coffey Co. This was known as the Turkey Creek United Brethern Church. First services were in a log cabin.

The other one is the present Turkey United Methodist Church, although it was started as the Turkey Creek Evangelical Church. The first class was started in 1876, but the church was built in 1891.

Duck Creek drains quite an area along the north part of the county before emptying into Turkey Creek. It has its beginning about a mile east of where the main Turkey Creek starts. We have heard this creek referred to as "Goose River", by some of the older people that lived along it.

We mentioned two Duck Creeks as having headwaters, in this county, and we consider this one as the major one and called it Duck Creek (1), as all of it is in Woodson County. About midway in the length of this creek there is a sharp bend that was called locally the "Ox Bow".

Just about a mile to the east of the Ox Bow, a road going south from the County Line has to turn to the east because of a steep hill that is just to the south of the creek. We were told that this was a favorite Indian campground because of springs of water seeping out of the hill. We were also told that this hill was called Mount Nebo. This name evidently derived from the Biblical mount by that name in the Holy Land about 30 miles east of Jerusalem.

The Askren Branch runs around three miles north and west from the north side of Turkey Creek, crossing the road just to the west of the Askren Cemetery. It was named for David Askren who built a log cabin along the east bank of this stream in 1858. Years ago it was also known as Spring Branch. In truth it is a spring fed branch for about a mile of its length north from the creek. It was a fine spring on the east bank that decided David Askren to build his cabin there. As another house was built there in 1939 another source of water was sought. Another vein of water was found about a hundred yards from the first one. The latter spring was of fine soft water while the first one was a cold, lasting vein was of a harder variety.

Just to the east of the Nikkeltown area is the starting of a stream that empties into Turkey Creek at Burt. This has always been known as Jordon. Some of the older people referred to it as the "River Jordon " again a Biblical name. When a survey was made for the LeRoy-Eureka wagon road in 1864, it was called by the surveyors as Jordon Creek. One of the first pioneers who settled near the mouth of ths stream was Asa Whitney. Mr. and Mrs. Whitney started the first Baptist Sunday School in that vicinity in 1859. It would be interesting just who named it Jordon.

Nine miles north and a mile east of Yates Center, headwaters for a stream comes in from the south, and runs to the north and west and into Turkey Creek. Years ago this stream was known as Buckners Hollow. The first that we knew about this stream and name was in an old copy of the Yates Center News, when the then editor, R.H. Trueblood, told about when he was a boy on his father's homestead 8½ miles north of present Yates Center, about 1872-73, that there were no fences and their milk cows would graze over the open range. He told that at times they would have to go over in Buckners Hollow, possibly a couple of miles after them. This stream was named for a large Negro named Buckner. As far as we know he lived alone in a log cabin along this stream somewhere near where it entered Turkey Creek. He had a small bunch of cattle and always found grazing with the cattle was a large male Buffalo.

The story is told that in the fall of 1875, when the houses of Kalida were being transferred to the new county seat of Yates Center.

Continued to No. 71 - July 1985

A group of young folks lived in the Stringtown vicinity North of Batesville. From left to right in the back row --- Fergus, "Gus" Ireland, and Harry Harding. Center row: Jennie Calder, Nettie Fergus and Jessie Bayless. Bottom row: Ethel Harding, Mabel Harding, --- Kimler.

We do not know much about Stringtown, except one version was that the people in that vicinity north of Batesville and east of Bayless School had organized an orchestra of all string instruments, violins, guitars, mandolins, and such. Stringtown covered quite an area and was rather strung out as a neighborhood and was the reason of being called Stringtown.

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The Editor of this quarterly has been asked several times what relation he was to this family of Hardings. The biography of Col. John Harding is given in the History of Allen and Woodson counties. According to his biography and our Family History, Col. John Harding had a grandfather, John Harding, Sr., who had a brother named William, who was my great-great grandfather.

JOHN HARDING AND FAMILY —

While he was usually called Colonel Harding, the Colonel was more of an honorable one. John Harding was born in Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania. August, 14, 1831. He was a son of Henry Harding who was also a native of Luzerne County. As a youth John Harding attended the Wyoming Seminary of the Wyoming Valley, Penn., and completing his education at the New York Conference Seminary. He left there and moved to Lee County, Illinois. There he taught school for quite a time. He returned to the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania, where he again taught school for some time. In 1863 Mr. Harding was employed with an engineering firm in Washington, D.C. The following year he returned to Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania where he was drafted for service. He paid three hundred dollars commutation money and immediately afterward was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the recruiting service. He recruited seventy two men, had them mustered in and was then commissioned First Lieutenant of Company G, Two Hundred and Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteers, with which command he joined the Fifth Corps on the 15 of September under General Meade. Lieutenant Harding participated in the battle of South Side Railroad. October 24, 1864, and of Hatchers Run, in February 1865. At the latter battle he was shot through the right elbow. On May 18, 1865, he received his honorable discharge. He participated in the Grand Review in Washington and returned to his home in Lazerne Co., Pennsylvania.

On January 1, 1867, Colonel Harding was married to Miss Minnie T. Bostie. They were the parents of seven children, Affa E., Harry, Ethel A., Mabel F., Minnie D., James T. and John M.

1-Affa married Oscar Fullington.
2-Harry married ----.
3-Ethel A.
4-Mabel F., wife of W. A. Taylor.
5-Minnie D.
6-James T.
7-John M.

In 1884 Colonel Harding was induced to move west where land could be bought cheaper. Making his way to Woodson County, Kansas, where he purchased Section 15, Twp. 25, Range 14.

John Harding died at his home in Yates Center, June 4, 1809. He is buried in the Yates Center Cemetery. He was a member of the local G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic). Members of the G.A.R. attended the funeral in a body.

It was along sometime in November, 1979, that the Editor of In The Beginning received a letter from a 90 year old man, telling about some of his experiences. Somehow that letter got lost in my filing system and just came to light about the first of November 1984. That man is still living five years later so we thought it would be of interest to publish it now.

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On November 13, 1889, a boy was born to Ed and Carrie Fry with Dr. Wharton in attendance, in a square two story house in the northeast corner of Yates Center, Kansas.

While lots of water has gone over the dame and under the bridge, I think the most outstanding of the 90 years, was while I was in the army during World War I.

Having drew a number at the first of the draft of War I it found me owning a garage at Arlington, Oregon, in which my brother-in-law (Albert Boyd, Elsie husband) and one at Condon, Oregon with the Ford Agency and the Draft Board said I must go. I got my oldest brother (Claude) from Yates Center to come out and run the Condon Garage.

I enlisted in E. Co., 37th U.S. Engineers. I trained at International Harvester at Chicago, Illinois for a tractor man and go to Southern France to show the French how to farm with a tractor. On July 3rd we boarded the Maissitania headed for France and the morning of the 4th (On an English boat) we had oatmeal for breakfast and when you look at it, it was full of white worms and the boys went to the rail and dumped their mess kits into the sea. But about 9 or 8 o'clock the Dr. called us all on the top deck and told us the worms were cooked and that we were going to war and eat them.

I was given a life boat on the top deck to guard and at 5:20 a.m. on the morning of the 5th the whistle let out a scream, the helm was thrown sharply over and the great vessel responded with a lurch that threw many passengers to the deck and the torpedo went by our side 5:00 o'clock the smoke rolled up the west of us and five destroyers came in sight with the Stars and Stripes flying. One took up a position in front of us and two on each side. We landed at Liverpool, crossed England on the train to South Hampton where in the night we crossed the Channel on a little cattle boat and took the train to the suburbs of Paris and was housed in an old cement warehouse and on July 26th they called us all out, gave us a gas mask, helmet and 100 rounds of ammunition.

That evening about 4 o'clock a train pulled in, with box cars with wooden seats, and we were loaded on and the next morning found us near Chateau and after a two mile walk we were about half way between the artillary and the trenches and (reserves) for the Marines when they turned the Germans back.

Two other boys and I were given the job of guarding an old schoolhouse which was an Advance Headquarters. On the morning of August 21 it was transferred to Headquarter Detachment of the First Army and that evening an air raid came and three of our boys were killed. Vaughn Kiffer, my partner, the company buglar and one other, and 12 others received wounds.

I landed in a one room schoolhouse and lived with an old French lady where I could look through the back fence across a little meadow and up a little hill and see German soldiers walking guard duty in St. Mihiel. I had two little French switchboards directly connected with the trenches and my code name was Williams and a through line to Shomont-General Pershings Headquarters. I was there while preparing for the battle of St. Mihiel and German planes was over every day and raided a town about a mile south.

On Sept. 14th I was transferred to First Army Advance Headquarters at Nervfchateau and the Signal Corps took over. I was sent down the road about one mile after an abandoned truck, after some adjustments, a grease job and oil and gas, a boy came in on a motorcycle to show me where to go. It was dark when we landed at his outfit. He showed me where to park the day before they had a gas attack. I crawled in my blanket in the back of the truck and the next thing someone was waking me up. It was the Mess Sergeant. Breakfast was ready. I got a detail of men and took off to the back part where they were going after some cars and trucks. Then I went over and loaded with pontoon bridges which I took to the front. On return Colonel Dillion called me to his office and said, "See that Cadillac over there. It is yours." While he only took one trip with me he kept me on the go. One day he called me in and said, "You be at the American garage in Paris at 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning and there will be a party with 4 boxes of Dumbells (cases of shells). We are losing men by not having them, so every minute counts. I made the trip and was the boys glad to get them. Another time I took two officers. We worked our way all night up the north end of the line and morning found us on a little ridge in some trees. I just put the car in some brush, the German shells were going over and machine gun bullets were playing a tune on the trees below. I was to stay there till 5 o'clock, but about 4 o'clock they came back. The officers had found the boys that they had not heard from for several days. On November the 11th the Colonel took his only trip with me. We went to the north end of the trenches and after 11 o'clock when the firing stopped we drove all the way. It got dark, by the time we got to the south end, but the boys there were out of the trenches pouring the powder out of the shells and lighting it to

celebrate the Armistice. On Nov. 12th I went to Luxenburg with officers, one could speak German. On the 13th (my birthday) we followed the last German truck down the Moselle River to the Rhine, and up it to Coblenz, Germany, where the offense established headquarters in a store building. I parked on the street and watched the boys take over the town. On my return to Nervfchateau, Colonel Dillion called me in and wanted me to go with him to Belgium, where he was to do some apprais-ing. I showed him a letter I got from mother saying I was need-ed at home. He sent me to Southern France where I joined a Casualty Co., boarded the good ship President Wilson which sailed out of Italy. When I got back to Condon, Oregon, Clyde had a Model T all packed to drive back to Yates Center, Kan-sas.

Yours
Lon E. Fry

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WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE - October 11, 1912 —

The Woodson County Stock Show, Sale and Agricultural Society closed its fifth annual meeting at Lincoln Park Friday. The attendance increased from day to day and on Friday the closing day the crowd was estimated at from five to six thou-sand.

Ideal weather prevailed during the entire four days. The balloon ascension and parachute leap each day was pretty to see.

An automobile parade occurred at noon Friday. Fifty autos were in the parade, thirty of which had been decorated for the occasion.

Ball games during the week helped entertain the crowd. The Kansas City Blues played two games and proved a great at-traction. The first game was won by the visitors, 12 to 0, and the second game was also won by the Blues with a final score 8 to 5.

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The marriage of Miss Claire Plummer, daughter of Major and Mrs. T. W. Plummer, and Mr. C.G. Plumb took place at the Cavalry Epsicopal Church Saturday morning.

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B.G. True an old and respected citizen of the town died at his home Wednesday morning of old age. Mr. True was in his 87th year. He came here from Burlington in the early days of Yates Center. He has built many of the homes and furnished them at a most reasonable cost to the renter. He leaves a daughter Mrs. A.W. Crosby of this city. His remains were taken to Kankaee, Illinois for burial.

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TORONTO-The Republic - August, 1912 —

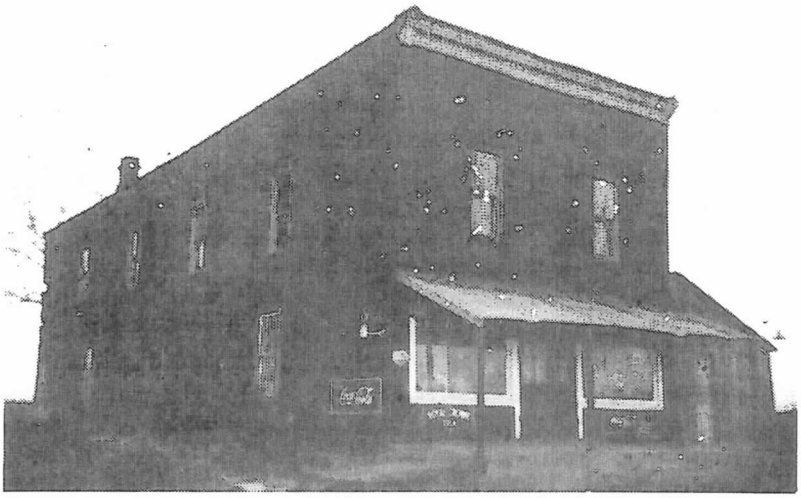
The Dr. Lee family has moved to Yates, Center, all of the family except the doctor are going up Monday. The doctor will remain here for some time as he has a number of patients he cannot leave.

MIDDLETOWN —

While the place called Middletown was in Wilson County, it at one time was the main trading post for people in Woodson County living along and between the Big Sandy and Little Sandy Creeks.

When first started Middletown was over a mile south in Wilson County. The post office and store was named for Middletown, New York. The Middletown post office was established, June 10, 1873, in the home of Solomon Stout, and with him as postmaster.

We do not know just when the large two story building was built on the crossroad a mile south of the Woodson County Line.



Different postmaster and store owners were, Harrison Blevins, F.S. Sellars, Jacob Milson, Joseph Williamson, Robert Puckett, Emma Puckett, Robert Puckett and wife Emma Miliron Puckett operated the post office and store until his death in 1901. Mrs. Puckett kept the post office until it was taken over by George Steele who kept it until the Rural Free Delivery took over about 1904. We do not know who all kept the store going. We believe that it had several owners. The only time this writer was ever in the store was after it had been sold out for lack of customers. Our reason for going there was to measure and test some grain that was being stored in the back room of the old store. At one time there was a blacksmith shop here.

All that is left here is a post with a board nailed to it saying 'Middletown'.

ODDS AND ENDS —
Woodson County Post - Neosho Falls, Kansas.
H. D. Dickson, Editor and Proprietor, July 15, 1881.

The new bell at the Methodist Church got a fair chance to try itself Sunday evening and gave general satisfaction.

$5 reward will be paid for information that will lead to the recovery of a two year old iron-grey stallion that strayed from Neosho Falls in early spring.

J.M. Sprangler

Woodson County has 32,214 acres of taxable land under cultivation, and 225,303 not under cultivation.

The July session of the County Commissioners held last week was a lively one on account of a number of contests over the laying out of roads. This road business in the more thickly settled condition of the county is getting to be quite an important interest.

The amount of money spent in Neosho Falls and vicinity during a single year for beer would build a splendid town hall.

J. Bishop is selling 7 pounds of coffee for $1.00.

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WOODSON COUNTY POST - Neosho Falls, Kansas —
Sain and Dow, Editors, August 13, 1873 —

DAILY HACK from Neosho Falls to Divide. The traveling public will take notice that the subscriber is running a Hack from Neosho Falls to Divide, connecting with trains on the L.L. & G. Railroad going north and south.

Parties from the north and east wishing to visit Neosho Falls where the land office of the M.K.&T. Railroad is located, will save 20 hours by taking this route instead of going via Humboldt. Remember to buy tickets to Divide on the L.L. & G.R.R. --S.N. Moore. (Divide was a station on the L.L. & G. railroad in Allen County, about ten miles east and some north of Neosho Falls and about the same distance north and some east of Iola.)

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SHERIFF HAMILTON AQUITTED —

We noticed a few weeks ago that Sheriff Alex Hamilton had been arrested for petty larceny. The trial came off last Friday before 'Squire' Henry, and resulted in the complete vindication of the accused. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" and found further that the prosecution was malicious and instituted without probable cause. The Magistrate promptly taxed up the costs ($87.65) to the complaining witness and ordered that he stand committed until paid.

ODDS AND ENDS

Deputy Sheriff Houghawout and posse followed some supposed kidnappers last Wednesday, but found they had a warrant for their prisoner.

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There is a very bad place in the road near the edge of the timber and just west of Fred Can Nornen's house. A horse could break a leg there without much trouble.

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A young man who was trying to sleep in a chair in front of one of the stores complained of being annoyed by a couple of small boys who persisted in dropping pebbles in his mouth.

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BRAMLETTE STORE-Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes at Humboldt prices, and all kinds of produce taken in exchange. B.F. Crabb, Bramlette, Kansas. (Bramlette was on the M.K.&T. Railroad about seven miles down the track from Neosho Falls and about the same from Humboldt. Or just about a mile south of the present Piqua.)

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Last Sabbath evening as Rev. Cooper was preaching in the Masonic Hall, some sneaking, thieving, cowardly wretch, a disgrace to manhood because in the guise and semblance of a man, made two attempts to throw a rock through the window near the rostrum, failing in both instances. Not content with this he (or they) barricaded the stairway completely barring egress until the obstruction had been removed.

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RECIPE FOR TANNING SQUIRREL HIDE —

Fresh hides will be laid in clear water till all blood is gone. Hereafter the hide on the meat side, the hanging meat will be taken off by washing in running water. Hereafter the melting of 1 lb. of alum and ¼ lb. of cook salt in six quarts of water. When the melting is cooled down to milk warmth the hide will be put in the melting pot. (This recipe was found in a small calendar notebook of 1885, belonging to William Stange. The last part of the recipe was missing.)

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Steiner's Sundries
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.
The Herring Families
Cantrell Hay Co.,
Craig Cantrell
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. & Helene Schnell
Wilma Mark
Yates Center News
Gambles Hardware &
Home Furnishings
Pringle Ranch -
J. Richard Pringle
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Glen & Zola Baker
Piqua State Bank
Lynn and Gail Cantrell
Gaulding Oil Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward
Clyde Hill
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell
Hi-Way Food Basket
Atkin Clinic
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Ken Kimbell
Jaspers Shopping Spot
Daly Western Supply
Linde Barber Shop
Campbell Plmg. & Electric
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Jaynes Insurance Agency
Glenn Shaw
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Loren & Rita Cantrell
Al's Jewelry
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Thomas Wilson
Bill Herman
Abbott & Ethel Crandall